

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /076 W
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R 141645Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4400

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

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CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG PASS POLAD: CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

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PASS POLAD: CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN PASS POLAD

PARIS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, GW

SUBJECT: SCHEEL AND GENSCHER VISITS TO SOVIET UNION
NOVEMBER 10-15

REF: BONN 18231 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SCHEEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER HAVE COMPLETED THEIR VISIT TO MOSCOW WITH LITTLE APPARENT MOVEMENT ON OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES BUT WITH A POSITIVE TONE AND REAFFIRMATION OF DETENTE. SCHEEL IS CURRENTLY VISITING TASHKENT AND SAMARKAND AND IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO BONN THIS EVENING. IN HIS TALKS WITH PODGORNYY, SCHEEL APPARENTLY BROUGHT UP THE NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE, INCLUDING MOVEMENT ON SUCH BASKET III MEASURES AS FAMILY REUNIFICATION. SCHEEL ALSO REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR GERMAN REUNIFICATION IN AN ADDRESS ON MOSCOW TV. GENSCHER, WHO CARRIED OUT A SERIES OF SEPARATE CONSULTATIONS WITH GROMYKO, APPARENTLY CONCENTRATED ON DISCUSSING THREE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON WHICH LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE. SCHEEL'S AND GENSCHER'S MEETING WITH BREZHNEV PUT AS POSITIVE A TONE AS POSSIBLE ON THE VISIT.
END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN INCISIVE BRIEFING ON HOW SCHEEL'S AND GENSCHER'S VISIT WENT GIVEN THE ABSENCE FROM BONN OF THE PRINCIPAL AIDES WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM. IT IS APPARENT, HOWEVER, FROM GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT, AS WELL AS FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT BY GENSCHER UPON HIS RETURN FROM MOSCOW, THAT LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. JUST AS APPARENT IS THE GERMAN DESIRE TO CAST FRG-USSR RELATIONS IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, TO GIVE THE VISIT AS POSITIVE A TONE AS POSSIBLE.

2. GENSCHER DECLARED UPON HIS RETURN THAT HE HAD HELD
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AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GROMYKO ON WORLD POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND BILATERAL MATTERS. IN HIS MEETINGS, BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE DETENTE AS A LONG-TERM POLICY. THE THREE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS UNDER NEGOTIATION (CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROTOCOL, LEGAL ASSISTANCE, AND SCIENTIFIC/ TECHNICAL COOPERATION) WERE DISCUSSED, BUT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ARE NECESSARY ON THE EXPERT LEVEL BEFORE

THEY CAN BE CONCLUDED. GENSCHER IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS MORE PROGRESS MADE ON THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT THAN ON THE OTHERS AND THAT THIS AGREEMENT MAY WELL BE THE ONE FURTHEST ALONG.

3. GENSCHER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE AND GROMYKO HAD DISCUSSED THE NECESSITY FOR ALL (READ USSR) INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO REALIZE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE THIRD WORLD. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A VERY INTENSE DISCUSSION WITH GROMYKO ON THE MIDDLE AND IN THIS CONNECTION HE HAD VOICED CONCERN OVER THE UN RESOLUTION ON ZIONISM.

4. AS EMBASSY MOSCOW HAS REPORTED, THE TONE OF SCHEEL'S

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VISIT AS REFLECTED IN SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT WAS FAVORABLE. THIS SAME TONE IS ALSO EVIDENT IN GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE.

5. THIS POSITIVE PUBLIC TONE PREVAILED ALTHOUGH SCHEEL TOOK UP WITH THE SOVIETS A SERIES OF BASKET III MEASURES, MOST NOTABLY REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES. IN A TELEVISION ADDRESS SCHEEL ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE FOR GERMAN REUNIFICATION. THE SOVIETS ENGAGED IN SOME CENSORSHIP OF THESE COMMENTS. SCHEEL AND GENSCHER ACCEPTED COMPETITION OF IDEAS AS COMPATIBLE WITH THE POLICY OF DETENTE, AND DID NOT SPEAK OF "IDEOLOGICAL DETENTE."

6. THE SOVIETS GREETED SCHEEL AS ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF OSTPOLITIK. GERMAN PRESS REPORTING FROM MOSCOW DURING THE VISIT, REFLECTING EXTENSIVE GERMAN BACKGROUNDING, EMPHASIZED THE THEME THAT DETENTE IS MORE PERMANENT THAN POLITICAL PERSONALITIES IN BONN OR MOSCOW AND THAT IT WILL OUTLAST CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT AND/OR GOVERNING PERSONALITIES IN EITHER CAPITAL.

7. SCHEEL AND GENSCHER MET WITH BREZHNEV ON NOVEMBER 11 FOR ONE HOUR AND 40 MINUTES. THE GERMAN PRESS REPORTED THAT BREZHNEV WAS "VERY JOVIAL AND DYNAMIC AND IN NO WAY CHANGED COMPARED WITH HIS BONN VISIT TWO YEARS AGO." THE GERMAN PRESS DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS "VERY OPEN, FRIENDLY, AND FRANK." BOTH SIDES STRESSED THE CONTINUITY OF DETENTE, THE NEED FOR PATIENCE, AND THE PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

8. A FINAL ROUND OF MEETINGS BETWEEN SCHEEL AND PODGORNÝ AND GENSCHER AND GROMYKO WAS CANCELLED, INDICATING THAT LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THEIR TALKS.

9. EMBASSY COMMENT: SCHEEL, AS EXPECTED, HAS EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE, THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN FRG/ USSR RELATIONS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE MOSCOW TREATY, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THE CONVICTION THAT DETENTE IS HERE TO STAY. WE DETECT IN THE GERMAN REPORTING SOME SATISFACTION IN THE REAFFIRMATION OF DETENTE THE FRG SECURED FROM THE SOVIETS DURING THE VISIT. THE POSITIVE TONE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT CONCEAL, NOR DOES IT APPEAR INTENDED TO, THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN GERMAN/SOVIET RELATIONS THAT HAS BEEN APPARENT THE LAST FEW MONTHS. OUR INITIAL CONCLUSIONS ARE THAT THE VISIT PROBABLY HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES, BUT DID PRODUCE THE ATMOSPHERE ON DETENTE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DESIRES AT THIS STAGE. HILLENBRAND

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